

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

SHIPPING CRATES.

D. L. WILSON, NEWMARKET, ONT.: Would you kindly answer through the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL the following: How many sections should a crate contain to sell most readily *by the crate*? and would you advise more than one size; if so, what sizes?

We find section crates of various sizes sell well, while some want a small crate holding 4 or 6 sections, others will take a crate holding 12 or 24 sections. We think if you make your crates to hold six, twelve and twenty-four sections, you should be able to accommodate the most fastidious purchaser.

Of what kind of lumber should they be made and how thick should it be?

They should be made of white spruce, basswood or pine. The nicer the crates are made the more readily is the honey sold. The lumber should not be more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for the sides, top, and bottom and not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch for the ends. The lighter they are made the better so long as they are sufficiently strong. The distance they are to be shipped has of course to be taken into consideration.

STARVATION.

W. E. MORRISON, ALVINSTON, ONT.:—I am very much pleased that we are to have a BEE JOURNAL, as I have been taking the WORLD entirely for the Bee Department, and I intend to ask a great many questions through it. Please answer the following:—

I had five hives in a clamp, packed in dry chaff and examined them to-day. I found that two were dead with lots of honey in their hives, while the others were all right though there were quite a few dead bees on the bottom board. They were quite dry and seemed to have been frozen to death or smothered. The hives were raised about half an inch off bottom board. Do you think they could have been frozen as it has been a very cold winter with few if any warm days.

Probably your bees had not been packed sufficiently to prevent the frost from entering the hive, and if the cluster was small, or rather the bees

weak in number, they would become so cold that they could not move about for their stores, in that condition they would starve although having plenty of honey in the hive. Sometimes bees are disturbed late in the fall; becoming disorganized they break the cluster and do not seem to cluster naturally or closely enough to protect themselves, especially from such a severe winter as the past.

What had I better do with the combs? They are nice and straight and have quite a lot of honey in them. Will it do to give them to a new swarm with the honey in them as I have no extractor?

Yes. Save your combs by all means. Take them out of the hives, remove all the bees from them, which may be done by a small pair of pliers or pin, hang them in a dry place about one or two inches apart, leave them until spring when they may be set in other colonies. The honey will be good for brood rearing. Worker combs should never be destroyed if they are in good condition.

Do you sell bees by the pound?

We have not yet commenced to sell bees by the pound.

CARNIOLIANS, COALS IN CELLAR, &c.

A. BECHTEL, SAUGEEN, ONT.: I am very glad that we are to have a CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, which will be better suited to our climate than the American Journals. What do you think of the Carniolian queens for our climate? Mr. Benton speaks very highly of them. I would like some quieter bees than mine. They seem to be getting run out, and if I don't get them improved, I will soon have none at all. My bees are wintering very poorly. Those I left on their summer stands in double-walled hives, are all frozen to death, and those in the cellar are dying fast with dysentery. The cellar proved too cold for such a hard winter. I tried for awhile to keep up the temperature by carrying down coals in a pot, but I believe I did more harm than good sometimes, as the coals would smoke and make the bees hum. I have moved away and left my bees in the cellar, and yesterday I went to look at them. The thermometer stood a little below 32°, which is too low. Here we have not had a day warm enough to fly since they went into winter quarters.

We are well pleased with the Carniol-